

DURING MAY'S EMS WEEK 2001 AND AT VARIOUS health fairs around Oahu, over 4,500 Emergency Medical Information ID cards were created and distributed.

Spearheaded by City & County EMS Field Operations Supervisor Bobby Pedro, volunteers from C & C ambulance units, EMS Division Administration, Emergency Medical Services Injury Prevention, and even the Mayor's Team, have worked diligently throughout the year to provide the well-received public service.

Information included on the cards are such essentials as a person's name, date of birth, emergency contact numbers, allergies, medical conditions, and medications. And in the case of a Keiki Medical ID, height, weight, a fingerprint, and a picture are also included. According to Pedro, "the information listed on an Emergency Medical Information ID may allow EMS personnel to be quicker and more accurate in identifying a possible relationship between the nature of a call and a pre-existing medical condition, any potential side effects of medications, or environmental, chemical, food or drug allergies. The IDs provide a means for the patient to have his/her medical information all in one place, in case of an emergency. That can lead not only to proper treatment but, more importantly, to better communication between the patient and EMS personnel."

Pedro also referenced a recent news article where a driver in Illinois had not, upon being injured in a car crash, been able to remember even her name, let alone any medical information. However, she did have a medical ID card, similar to Honolulu's Emergency Medical Information ID. From her card, the doctors were able to discern her medical history and past adverse reactions to medications and treat her properly.

Distributed along with the ID cards were the application forms participants completed in order to create their cards. Participants were advised to keep the forms and put them on their refrigerators.

So to all City & County and American Medical Response EMS personnel, HPD, HFD, and other first responders, be on the lookout for these new Emergency Medical Information ID cards and hone your pickpocketing skills, it may help save a life!

Wanted: Pickpockets



Able to dig deep into wallets, purses, and backpacks and secure not cash or credit cards, but vital health information.

Top: A sample of the Emergency Medical Information ID card.

Above: Honolulu Emergency Services Deputy Director Georgina Yuen, and EMS personnel Doug Barbieto, Richard Mendonca, Aaron Pitt, Joanne Espano, and Melinda Galaza carefully type up ID cards while Sonya Austin and Yvette Kubota help participants fill out forms at Costco-Waipio during EMS Week 2001.

Message from EMSIP Chief

Tuesday, September 11, 2001, changed the world we live in. We saw not only the worst of mankind in the execution of such evil acts, but we also saw bravery, national pride, and the resilience of our nation. As I watched the events unfold that morning, I kept thinking at no time during my 30-plus years of participating in disaster training and exercises did anything so horrific even come to the planning table. In concert with emergency medical personnel throughout Hawaii, we pay tribute to the courageous acts of our brother and sister responders in New York who sacrificed their lives while trying to save others. At no other time in my career have I had a greater sense of pride in Hawaii's emergency medical personnel who continue to risk their health and demonstrate limitless courage and strength in providing emergency medical care to Hawaii's residents and visitors to our beautiful state. Mahalo and God Bless all of you and your families.

EMS the Medical Home for Injury Prevention

Hawaii's EMS personnel continue to amaze me with their creative initiatives for injury prevention mini-grant projects in their service and communities. Congratulations go out to **David Cecil** and his colleagues over at the **Kailua-Kona Fire Station** for spearheading efforts to produce and distribute a video



focusing on preventing soccer injuries. Still in the works for **Brian Shimabukuro** is his application to develop a Keiki Safe 9-1-1 Activity Booklet. His artistic renditions of puzzles, mazes, and emergency information for children are great! Also in the works for **Ian Santee** and **Bobby Pedro** is an Explorers Program that will focus on the awareness of high school students about EMS as a profession, as well as an understanding of injury prevention, all while learning to provide care if injuries do happen. These mini-grant projects are supported through the EMS for Children (EMSC) Federal Grant. In addition to these efforts, there have been countless activities where EMS personnel have participated in such as health fairs, Career Day at local schools, the recent Seniors' Fair, car seat check-ups and the EMS Medical Information ID program.

EMS Legislation

The Department of Health is grateful for the additional funding to expand emergency ambulance services in the greater Honolulu area with Metro I increasing hours to 24/7 and a rapid response unit operating 16/7. I am convinced that the individuals who took the time to lobby for these increased EMS services were instrumental in getting the appropriation passed. The Department will again introduce legislation that requires children four to eight years of age be buckled in a booster seat in the back seat of vehicles, as well as request funding for the Waianae, Oahu and Wailea, Maui communities.

As we head into the holiday season, I want to wish you all a safe and joyous time with loved ones.

From my family to yours "Mele Kalimaka and Hauoli Makahiki Hou"

Donna Maiava, Chief
Emergency Medical
Services and Injury
Prevention



Emergency Medical Card

(continued from page 1.)

Facing page, top: Paramedic **Pat Jones** focused her attention on prevention strategies during EMS Week 2001 by designing and creating an injury prevention poster. Here, Pat discusses preventing injuries to his children with a visitor to the EMS booth at Pearlridge.

Facing page, middle: Paramedic **Eddie Fujioka** visits with a keiki and her Mom while her Keiki ID is being completed.

Facing page, bottom: City & County EMS volunteers (back row) **Mr. and Mrs. Jake Hoopai, Richard Mendonca, Aaron Pitt, Colin Wong, Bobby Pedro, Georgina Yuen, Eddie Fujioka**, and (front row) **Chris Behasa, Doug Barbieto, Lois Sugai, and Sonya Austin** stop for a photo after completing 400 Emergency Medical Information ID cards at Windward Mall.





In each newsletter, an injury resource will be featured. If you have a favorite of your own that you would like to share with your colleagues, we would love to hear from you. Here is the pick for this edition:

EPIC Medics - Integrating EMS & Injury Prevention

EPIC (Eliminate Preventable Injuries of Children) Medics is a non-profit organization committed to preventing childhood injuries. Based in San Diego, it is a coalition of volunteer paramedics, EMTs, and others whose primary goal is to integrate EMS and injury prevention, in partnership with other public and private organizations and agencies. They were moved to form the group after a rash of preventable pediatric drownings in their community.

The group views EMS and injury prevention as a natural fit – who better than the people who work the scenes of injuries to have some insight into how they can be prevented. The group is determined to transform the tragedies they see into positive action. EPIC Medics spearhead injury education in the schools, perform home safety assessments, advocate for injury prevention legislation, and sponsor car seat check-ups.

EPIC Medics welcomes inquiries from fellow EMS personnel on how to become involved in injury prevention efforts and can address some of the obstacles to such involvement. They can be reached at:

EPIC Medics
3671 Pringle Street
San Diego, CA 92110

Phone: (619) 501-EPIC
Email: epicmedics@aol.com
Website: www.epicmedics.org

12% of all
EMS calls on
Oahu involve
children.

Of the 12%,
44% are
injury related.

Motor vehicle, pedestrian,
and bike crashes, along with falls,
poisonings, assaults, and drownings,
are the leading causes of injuries
among Hawaii's keiki.

Do you have an idea for an injury prevention project and need some funds to make it happen? Help is available and it may be as easy as filling out a one-page mini-grant application. EMS personnel can apply for up to \$2,000 to use in starting new or for expanding existing community injury prevention activities focused on children. Funded by the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program, six mini-grants are available this fiscal year. For more information or to request an application, call Lois Sugai, EMS Injury Prevention Coordinator, at 587-5667.

Latest Awardees

Congratulations to the most recent mini-grant awardees in Kailua-Kona. Fire Rescue Specialists/EMTs **David Cecil, Scott Crozier,** and **Michael Kamau,** and MICTs **Mark Evans** and Captain **Grant Kojima** are partnering with AYSO's **Edward Akiona** to produce a video that addresses preventable soccer injuries. Their ambitious plans include broadcast of the video on Na Leo O Hawaii Channel 55 and distribution to local AYSO coaches.

What's Happening...

News from around the Islands...

1 American Medical Response - Kauai continues to lead the charge when it comes to keeping Kauai's keiki safe. In recent months, AMR personnel have volunteered at health fairs, Child Safety Day, regularly scheduled car seat check-ups, and the Kauai County Farm Fair. Also, **Medic 21** continues as a car seat fitting station, averaging one check-up daily. **Medic 20** is now on board as a fitting station. In July, AMR - Kauai Manager **Zach Octavio** and MICT **John Blatt**, both trained car seat technicians, became certified car seat instructors. Zach also volunteers at all Pop Warner games to oversee the safety of the young athletes.

2 On the Big Island, **Hawaii County Fire Department's EMS Division** reports partnering with the East Hawaii Kiwanis Club and the Key Clubs of Hilo and Waiakea High Schools in distributing and installing 50 emergency outdoor light beacons to residents in South Hilo. In an emergency, after calling 911, the caller can quickly flick the outdoor switch on-off-on, activating the installed flashing light beacon. This flashing light can make it easier for an emergency response team to find the ailing person's home. Residents were also given safety information and the opportunity to have their questions and concerns addressed.

3 In August, a group of certified child passenger safety technicians attended the second annual **Technical Issues Workshop** in Honolulu. The workshop, designed to update trained technicians from around the state on legislative and technical matters relating to keiki car seats, was well represented by EMS personnel and first responders from all islands. Special thanks go out to **Brad White** and **Speedy Bailey** of **American Medical Response, Hawaii**

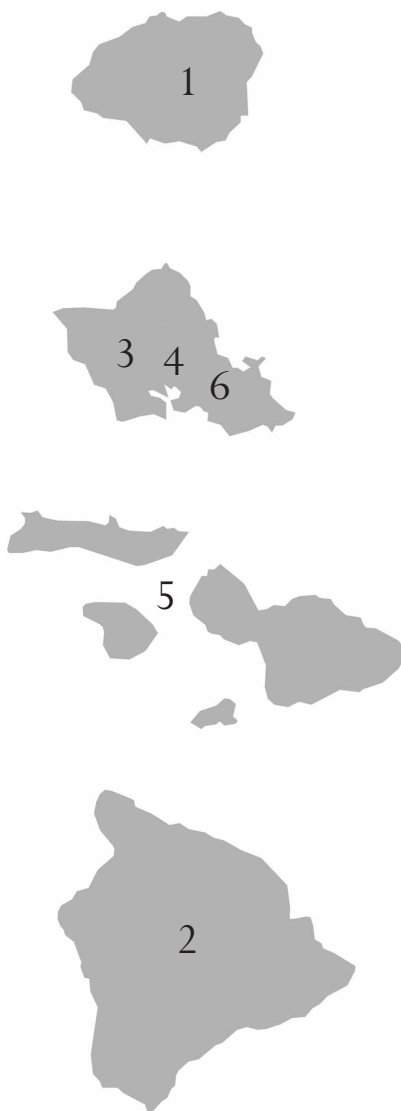
Operations, for their very generous donation of prize baskets.

4 Honolulu's City & County EMS Division announced that on September 26, its **Metro I** unit went "24/7." This increase in service (11 pm - 7 am) better meets the

needs of our nation's 56th largest (by population) metropolitan area. Support from Division Administration, vigorous lobbying efforts by paramedics and EMTs in the field, as well as accommodations by current and new personnel to staff the unit, allowed for the addition of the new midnight shift.

5 Safe Community of Maui is pleased to proclaim a first for the state of Hawaii! **Maui County Fire Department - Hana Station**, is the first Fire Unit in the state to become a Child Passenger Safety Seat Fitting Station. Along with their neighbors, **MPD - Hana**, the Fire Department can now assist parents and/or guardians in ensuring that Maui's keiki are properly restrained. This is a welcome addition to on-going efforts by **American Medical Response - Maui, Safe Community of Maui, Inc., and the Maui Police Department**.

6 First responders from around Oahu showed their patriotism at October's UH Warriors vs Fresno State Bulldogs nationally televised football game. Along with the 175-piece UH Marching Band, **EMS, Police, and Fire personnel** participated in the spirited half-time show. The presentation focused on honoring our nation's true heroes of the September 11 tragedies and the city's first responders once again answered the call of duty in proudly representing their fellow comrades in this dedication to Americans everywhere.



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